

Appl. No. 10/573,453
Reply to Office Action of October 22, 2007

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An elongate joining member for bridging a gap between a first and at least a second panel, each panel having a first surface and an opposed second surface, the joining member comprising a flange member, an extension member extending from said flange member and at least one resilient retaining member connected to said extension member, and having a first ~~preferential~~ biased configuration relative to said extension member, said at least one resilient retaining member being moveable between said first ~~preferential~~ biased configuration and a second different configuration, and wherein in said second configuration, said at least one resilient retaining member is insertable into said gap between the first and at least second panels, and further wherein when ~~inserted through the~~ at least one resilient retaining member is moved beyond said gap, ~~said at least one retaining member adopts said first preferential configuration to engage~~ it resiliently returns at least towards said first biased configuration relative to the extension member such that it engages at least a portion of the second surface of each panel and wherein said flange member is engageable with at least a portion of the first surface of each panel such that said flange member substantially bridges the gap between the first and at least second panels.
2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The joining member of claim 1 wherein the flange member comprises a main body defined on one side by a first surface for engaging said at least a portion of the first surface of both the first and second panels and a second opposing side that presents the outward appearance of the joining member.
3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The joining member of claim 2 wherein, the flange member is movable from a first configuration to a second configuration.

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4. (ORIGINAL) The joining member of claim 3 wherein, the flange member is movable between a substantially domed configuration to a substantially flat configuration and wherein, in the second substantially flat configuration, the first surface of the flange member is substantially flush with the two panels.
5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The joining member of claim 1 wherein the extension member is relatively straight and extends from a proximal end adjacent the flange member to a distal end.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The joining member of claim 1 wherein the at least one ~~retaining member~~ resilient retaining member comprises opposing first and second leg members each connected to and disposed at an angle relative to the extension member.
7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The joining member of claim 6 wherein in said first preferential configuration, the first and second leg members extend from a first end that is connected to the extension member to a second end that is spaced from the extension member.
8. (ORIGINAL) The joining member of claim 7 wherein the second end of the first leg member is engageable with the second surface of the first panel and the second end of the second leg member is engageable with the second surface of the second panel.
9. (ORIGINAL) The joining member of claim 8 wherein the second end of the first and second leg members include a grooved or serrated face to engage the second surfaces of the panels.
10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The joining member of claim 1 when made entirely from a resiliently flexible material.
11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The joining member of claim 1 wherein the ~~retaining member~~ resilient retaining member includes a single leg member connected to the extension member.

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12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A panel assembly comprising at least two panels, each having a first surface, a second opposed surface and side walls, said at least two panels arranged relative to one another such that a sidewall of one panel and a sidewall of a second panel define a gap therebetween, said gap bridged by an elongate joining member comprising a flange member, an extension member extending from said flange member and at least one ~~retaining member~~ resilient retaining member connected to said extension member and having a first ~~preferential~~ biased configuration relative to said extension member, said at least one ~~retaining member~~ resilient retaining member being moveable between said first ~~preferential~~ configuration and a second different configuration, and wherein in said second configuration, said ~~retaining member~~ resilient retaining member is insertable into said gap and further wherein when inserted through said gap, said at least one retaining member adopts said first preferential configuration to engage when the at least one resilient retaining member is moved beyond said gap it resiliently returns at least towards said first biased configuration relative to the extension member such that it engages at least a portion of the second surface of each panel and wherein said flange member engages at least a portion of the first surface of each panel such that said flange member substantially bridges the gap between the first and at least second panels.

13. (CANCELED)

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An elongate joining member for bridging a gap between a first and at least a second panel, each panel having a first surface and an opposed second surface, the joining member comprising a flange member and at least two resilient extension members which each extend from a first end connected to extending from said flange member to a second free end, each resilient extension member further comprising at least one resilient retaining member positioned at or adjacent to the second end and wherein each resilient extension member is being moveable relative to the each other between a first preferential biased configuration and a second different insertion configuration and wherein, in use, when in their second configuration, said at least two resilient extension members are insertable into said gap between the first and at least second panels, at least one of said extension members further including at least one retaining member such that when said at least two extension members are inserted

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~~through said gap, said extension members adopt said first preferential configuration to cause said~~
~~at least one retaining member to~~ and wherein when at least said resilient retaining members of
said resilient extension members are moved beyond the gap, they resiliently return at least
towards said first biased configuration of the extension member such that they engage at least a
portion of the second surface of a panel and wherein said flange member is engageable with at
least a portion of the first surface of each panel such that said flange member substantially
bridges the gap between the first and at least second panels.

15. (CANCELED)

16. (CANCELED)

17. (CANCELED)